



Uniformed Services University

of the Health Sciences

4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, MD 20814-4799

<http://www.usuhs.mil>

Release No. 02-05-06

Contact: The Office of University Affairs

Voice: 301-295-9702 **Fax:** 301-295-3757

Email: abennett@usuhs.mil

News Release

FEDERAL SCHOOL OF NURSING AWARDS MASTER'S DEGREES

BETHESDA, Md. – The Uniformed Services University's Graduate School of Nursing awarded master of science in nursing degrees to 13 active-duty officers at the university's 23rd commencement May 18 at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

Since the GSN was created in 1993, 170 family nurse practitioners and nurse anesthetists have received their master of science in nursing degrees from the school.

This year's degree recipients from the school's family nurse practitioner program were Capt. Curtis Aberle, U.S. Army; Maj. Kenneth Bethards, USA; Lt. Cmdr. Gerald Boyle, U.S. Navy; Capt. Patricia Coburn, USA; Capt. Paul Hess, USA; Capt. Denise Lyons, USA; Capt. Angelo Moore, USA; Capt. Andrew Powell, USA; Maj. Richard Prior, USA; Maj. David Seiffert, USA; Lt. Col. Adoracion Soria, USA; and Lt. Cmdr. Dominic Weskamp, U.S. Public Health Service. Lt. Col. Christine Croksey, U.S. Air Force, from the school's nurse anesthesia program, also received a degree.

Receiving awards were Weskamp (2002 Outstanding Student Award, USPHS Chief Nurse Award, Directors Award for USPHS and 2002 Dean's Award for Research Excellence); Aberle (2002 Esprit de Corps Award and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges); Lyons (2002 Distinguished Academic Performance Award); Moore (2002 Distinguished Clinical Performance Award); Prior (2002 Dean's Award for Research Excellence);

Capt. Anne Nayback, USA (2002 First Year Outstanding Student Award); Lt. Col. Marjorie Graziano, USAF (Uniformed Faculty Award); Janice Agazio, D.N.Sc. (Civilian Faculty Award); Capt. Bonita Pyler, USPHS (USPHS Chief Nurse Award); and Eugene Levine, Ph.D (Faye G. Abdellah Faculty Research Award).

The Faye G. Abdellah Faculty Research Award, named for the school's founding dean, was awarded for the first time this year. Retired U.S. Public Health Service Rear Adm. Faye Abdellah, RN, Ed.D., Sc.D., GSN dean and professor, will retire May 31 after 49 years of service to the federal government and the nation.

Thirteen students in the GSN's nurse anesthesia program were also recognized at graduation. They will complete their master's degree requirements this fall. They are Capt. Karla Atchley, USAF; Capt. Toney Banks, USAF; Capt. Mary Jo Burleigh, USAF; Lt. Erik Cline, USN; Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Franz, USPHS; Capt. Michelle Gauthier, USAF; Capt. Annie Hall, USAF; 1st Lt. Michael Neal, USA; Lt. Robert Polley, USN; Capt. Bradley Richardson, USA; Capt. Lance Scott, USA; Capt. Bruce Todd, USAF; and Capt. Ronald Wyatt, USAF.

For the NA program, award winners were Burleigh (Outstanding Student Award and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities recognition); Hall (2002 Dean's Award for Research Excellence); Wyatt (Esprit de Corps Award); and Lt. Victor Auld (2002 First Year Outstanding Student Award).

USU's Graduate School of Nursing, created in 1993, is fully accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Academic emphasis is placed on advanced nursing practice, theory, role, research and the basic sciences.

Established by Congress in 1972, the Uniformed Services University has the nation's only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. USU specializes in

military medicine, which differs from civilian medicine, and involves prevention, diagnosis and treatment by military personnel who are integral to the military operations they support. Military medicine requires a solid background in tropical medicine and hygiene, parasitology and a full understanding of epidemiologic methods and preventive medicine.